



Weekend of Dec. 3-5 Kicks Off Holiday Season in Yorktown

Yorktown, November 19—Historic Yorktown will be full of holiday cheer Friday, December 3, Saturday, December 4, and Sunday, December 5 as it kicks off the holiday season with four special events.

The weekend begins the evening of Friday, December 3, with the annual **Tree Lighting Ceremony and Procession of Lights** sponsored by the York County Historical Committee. The Procession of Lights, led by the Fifes & Drums of York Town, will begin at 7 p.m. at the Yorktown Victory Monument. Participants are encouraged to gather at the Monument by 6:30 p.m. to receive a free light stick, compliments of the York County Historical Committee, and to enjoy some seasonal entertainment.

The procession will travel down historic Main Street to York Hall, the site of the official Tree Lighting Ceremony. This year's ceremony features live entertainment, caroling, hot cider, cookies and a visit from a very special guest! This event is **free**. For more information, call 890-4970.

Immediately following the Tree Lighting Ceremony, at the waterfront, take in the spectacular **8th Annual Lighted Boat Parade**. Area work and pleasure boats are decorated in their finest holiday spirit and parade in competition for "Best of Show." Judging begins at 8 p.m. Entertainment begins at the waterfront at 7 p.m. with a roaring bonfire, complimentary cider, and holiday music while we await the arrival of the magnificent parade of lights. The Yorktown Chorale entertains at the bonfire site as well as the Fifes and Drums of York Town. This event is **free** and is sponsored by the Celebrate Yorktown Committee and Wormley Creek Marina. For more information, call 890-4970. Families are encouraged to bring flashlights to assist in navigation around town at night as an added safety precaution.

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Festive Weekend in Yorktown

The excitement continues Saturday, December 4, with another **free** event when **“Yorktown Celebrates Christmas-An Eventful Affair.”** From 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., visitors to Yorktown may enjoy a day of events including period entertainment, demonstrations, unique shopping opportunities, exhibits and concerts. Historic buildings, the Watermen’s Museum, Grace Episcopal Church, the York County Historical Museum, the Customhouse and The Gallery at York Hall will all be open and decorated for the holidays.

Singing duo **Kindred Spirit**, banjoist **Carson Hudson**, and **Balladeers Hope Dillard**, and **Maia Conrad** will perform throughout the day at all participating shops, and the **Fifes and Drums of York Town** will perform on Main Street at 10 a.m. The **Yorkminster Flute Choir** will perform at the Nelson House at 11:30 a.m. followed at 1 p.m. by **Rivers Edge**, a trio of violins and cello, and **Peter Budnikas**, guitarist, at 2:30 p.m. **The Yorktown Lady** will be docked at the Yorktown Pier for an “open boat” with entertainment and light refreshments provided by **The Carrot Tree** from 2 - 3:30 p.m. Local colonial interpreter, **Sheila Williams**, will present two programs at Grace Church at 11 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. – *Christmas Customs, Then & Now*. Grace Church also will be the scene of a concert by the **Yorktown Chorale** at 12:30 p.m., followed at 2 p.m. by **Linda Kelley, Soprano**, presenting a program of Christmas music. Ms. Kelley has distinguished herself as a dramatic coloratura and has performed with opera companies in both America and Europe.

The York County Historical Museum will sponsor, *Christmas Through the Years in America*, an exhibit of Christmas trees and decorations that capture times in American history. The main display will be located in room B-4, adjacent to the Museum, in the lower level of York Hall. The exhibit will be open to the public on Saturday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. and Sunday 1-4 p.m.

Events at various shops will include demonstrations by the Williamsburg Spinners & Weavers at the Gallery at York Hall, Gems’n Metal Ornaments by Carolyn DeLizzio and Christmas Jewelry by Gail Eldred at Redcoat Antiques, and talks by Bob Bigelow on

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Christmas during World War II and Kwanzaa by Alice Davis at the York County Historical Museum at York Hall. Nancy Thomas will be signing her newest print “Too Many Cooks” at the Nancy Thomas Gallery and will be joined by the Cake Lady, Winette Jeffrey, coauthor of the cookbook “Celebrate Virginia.”

The Yorktown Shoppe will introduce a trio of Yorktown Ornaments by Brandywine Artist Marlene Whiting; Ms. Whiting will be available to sign these unique ornaments. Gin Tail Antiques will have a display of German Gingerbread Houses by Stevens European Bakery and Viccellio Goldsmith will have a drawing for an original-design Yorktown Bracelet.

That same evening, join us also for **Yorktown Illumination and Carols** from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m., a narrated historic stroll down Main Street beginning at York Hall led by the **Fifes and Drums of York Town** followed by Christmas Carols at the monument led by the **Sweet Adelines of Williamsburg**.

The Gallery at York Hall’s feature for Yorktown Celebrates Christmas includes seasonal selections as well as artwork by patrons of the Senior Center of York, Grafton High School Student Art and art by Dick DePaul of Williamsburg. Mr. DePaul has been the poster artist for the Williamsburg Occasion for the Arts and an award winner at both the Occasion and the Matthews County Market Days 2002 exhibits.

On Sunday, December 5, from 1 to 4 p.m., the Gallery at York Hall will feature **Cookies with Santa**. Children of all ages are welcome. Refreshments will be available both Saturday and Sunday. Artwork featured in The Gallery at York Hall is available for purchase and will make the perfect holiday gift. The Gallery at York Hall exhibits fine arts in all media by local artists and features selected artists on a revolving basis. For more information on the exhibits, call the Gallery at York Hall at 890-4490.

The Watermen’s Museum on Water Street will feature **“Tools and Tales”** of the Chesapeake Bay watermen as they share stories about their life’s work. The gift shop will also be open and sale items available.

Programs for the **Yorktown Celebrates Christmas –An Eventful Affair** will be available on December 4 at York Hall, located at 301 Main Street. The Eventful Affair is

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sponsored by the Celebrate Yorktown Committee to benefit the Committee's ongoing efforts to promote Yorktown and its historic heritage. Entertainment is made possible by a grant from the York County Arts Commission. For more information on the Eventful Affair, call Susan Powell at 898-5510.

No rain dates are scheduled for the holiday weekend events. The Yorktown Trolley from 5:30 – 10:30 p.m will provide free transportation for the Tree Lighting, Procession of Lights and Lighted Boat Parade. Transportation also will be available for the Eventful Affair on Saturday from 9:30 a.m. – 6:30 p.m. Public parking and handicap parking are available at the Yorktown Battlefield Visitor Center, the York-Poquoson Courthouse, and the York County Administration Center. The trolley is wheelchair accessible. For directions to the Holiday Weekend in Yorktown, call the York County Public Information Office at 890-3300.

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